



Dorothy Bonner, Left, is presented the 2016 Grassroots Leadership Award during the "We've Got Roots" celebration hosted by Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods on Saturday, June 25.



Rev. Byron Williams delivers the keynote address during the "We've Got Roots" fundraiser held inside the File-Goodwin Center on Saturday, June 25. The event, designed to honor community leaders, was hosted by Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods.

Nearly 100 help honor community leaders

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

For the last five years, Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods (NBN) has honored community leaders during their "We've Got Roots" fundraiser.

The purpose of the non-profit organization is to help build strong neighborhoods in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County by supporting a wide range of community-based initiatives. NBN believes that the long-term change in communities only happens when residents participate in creating solutions.

Executive Director Paula McCoy said, "We've Got Roots" is their opportunity to celebrate the community and showcase individuals who are going over and above, leading efforts to organize, revitalize, and transform their neighborhoods.

"The only way we will be able to build strong neighborhoods and communities is through a joint effort from all stakeholders," she said. "Although we only recognize a few

individuals here today, we know there are many of you who work tirelessly every day to make a difference in the lives of others in your neighborhood.

During this year's celebration held inside the File-Goodwin Center at Mt. Zion Baptist Church, NBN honored Executive Director of the Center for Community Safety at Winston-Salem State University Alvin Atkinson with the Outstanding Board Leadership Award; President of the Dreamland Park-Rose of Sharon Neighborhood Association Sean Hawkins with the Emerging Leadership Award; and longtime community leader and activist Dorothy Bonner with the Grassroots Leadership Award.

Recent Carver High School graduate Kywun Roberts and Winston-Salem Preparatory (WSPA) Academy rising junior Daysi Sanchez were presented with the 2016 Youth Leader Awards during the celebration as well. Roberts helped to found the Cleveland



Executive Director Paula McCoy welcomes residents to the 5th annual "We Got Roots" Celebration held inside the File-Goodwin Center at Mt. Zion Baptist Church on Saturday, June 25. The event is designed to honor community leaders who are improving the lives of others in the community.

Avenue Transformation Team and has been active in helping to organize and transform the Cleveland Avenue community.

While enrolled in Crosby Scholars at WSPA, Sanchez still finds time to volunteer at the Bridging

the Gap Community Center in the Southeast ward. She also enjoys learning about building strong communities through various programs provided by NBN.

The keynote address was delivered by the host

of the NPR-affiliated broadcast The Public Morality, Rev. Byron Williams. Williams, who is also an author and adjunct professor at Wake Forest University's School of Divinity, has spoken across the country and appeared on numerous television and radio news programs. He is considered one of the leading public theologians in the nation.

As he stood before the nearly 100 people in attendance, Williams said a healthy community is reflective of healthy roots. While using the roots of a plant as an example, Williams noted, "That makes the communities vibrant, ripe with growth, and fertile with possibility."

"What happens underground where the plants' roots live is what determines the quality of plant growth," said Williams. "We can't have healthy roots if we don't have a healthy root system in place."

"That's what is at the core of what Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods is all about."

Started in 1991 by The Winston-Salem Foundation, NBN is dedicated to connecting people, strengthening voices and leveraging resources in the community. Through their Grassroots Grants Program last year, NBN distributed \$15,000 in grants to seven grassroots community groups.

Following Williams' address, community advocate Delores Hill, who is a member of the NBN governance committee, said the organization will continue to do great things in the community moving forward. She also urged the community to get involved with the organization so they can continue to make an impact and change lives.

"With the team we have here at NBN and the help from the community, I am confident that we will be able to achieve great things in the future," she said. "I encourage you to help us continue to have roots in the communities here in Winston-Salem."

State Rep. Terry recovering from health challenge

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

State Rep. Evelyn Terry, Democrat of Forsyth County (District 71), this week told constituents that she has been dealing with a health challenge, but assured them that the prognosis is good and she will continue to serve them in Raleigh.

"A couple of months ago, doctors found a growth on my bladder. It was removed through out-patient surgery and subsequently, in an abundance of caution, I started chemotherapy, which now is about complete. We caught it in the early stage," said Terry, "but still it was a matter of concern. Thankfully, I have the support of family, friends, constituents and great doctors at Baptist Hospital. I see this as yet one more challenge along life's way, and together with prayer and God's help, we are working our way through it."

Despite ongoing treatment, Terry has been fully engaged in the current "short" session of the General Assembly now being held in Raleigh. "There are a lot of issues on the table that are important to the voters here in Forsyth County," she said, "and I am making sure their voices are heard loud and clear."

"As always, I encourage residents of District 71 to contact me if they want to share a concern or viewpoint or if they think there is some way in which I can be of assistance," Terry said. "My number is 336-788-5008 and my email is Evelyn.Terry@ncleg.net."

Terry's leadership over the years has ranged from precinct level political activity to serving on public boards and commissions, including membership on the Winston-Salem City Council.

A strong and effective advocate for women's rights and civil rights for all people, Terry currently serves as Forsyth County's Department of Social Services board chair. She is a long-time advocate for children and the arts and believes strongly in education as the foundation for successful living.

She graduated from Johnson C. Smith University and received her master's degree from Appalachian State University.

Terry is the granddaughter of George Black, the famous African-American handmade brick maker, who was one of Winston-Salem's best-known citizens of the 20th century.



Rep. Terry

Supreme Court to rule on use of race in N.C. redistricting

BY JONATHAN DREW
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RALEIGH (AP) - The U.S. Supreme Court agreed Monday to decide whether Republican lawmakers relied too heavily on race when they redrew North Carolina's congressional districts to give the GOP a powerful advantage in the swing state.

The justices will hear the case in the fall - almost certainly too late to affect November's elections. But in the years ahead, it could impact partisan efforts to create electoral districts aimed at swaying the balance of power in Congress and in state legislatures.

The Supreme Court could consider it together with a similar appeal from Virginia, where challengers say Republicans packed black voters into a dozen statehouse districts, strengthening GOP control of neighboring territories.

Five of the eight current justices appear sympathetic to such claims brought by minority voters, based on a 2015 ruling in an Alabama case, according to election-law expert Rick Hasen at the University of California at Irvine.

North Carolina's GOP leaders deny factoring in race to an illegal extent, saying their 2011 map was designed primarily to give Republicans an edge while complying with the federal Voting Rights Act after the 2010 census.

"We continue to

believe the maps are fair, legal and constitutional and look forward to our day in court," state Sen. Bob Rucho, a chief architect of the maps, said Monday.

Opponents say they unfairly stacked black voters into two districts that were already electing African-American representatives, thus diluting their influence in neighboring territories.

A federal court ruled in February that race was the predominant factor in drawing the two districts and ordered them redrawn. A new map of 13 congressional districts was used in an unusual June 7 primary, separate from most other races.

A high court ruling also should influence a separate court challenge of North Carolina's state legislative districts.

North Carolina is a swing state whose voters split almost evenly in the last two presidential elections. But the GOP's maps created veto-proof majorities in the state legislature, and the congressional delegation now has three Democrats to ten Republicans.

The state's lawyers, meanwhile, say the federal court's logic forces North Carolina into the difficult situation of having to consider race to comply with federal voting rights laws, while also triggering "strict

scrutiny" of its maps for doing so.

"The three-judge court's approach would trap states between the threat of vote dilution claims and the hammer of a racial gerrymandering claim," they wrote in a Supreme Court filing.

Their challengers argue that GOP mapmakers illegally gerrymandered the 2011 map, drawing boundaries "whose grasping tendrils were necessary to capture disparate pockets of black voters."

The case is McCrory v. Harris, 15-1262.

Associated Press writer Gary D. Robertson in Raleigh contributed to this report.

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